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LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an official statement, issued by a responsible source in the Republic of Yemen, concerning developments in the situation in Somalia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh AL-ASHTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

An official spokesman for SABA, the Yemeni news agency, has made the following statement concerning developments in the situation in Somalia:

"The Republic of Yemen has been following the tragic and painful developments that have overtaken the fraternal Somali people and have acquired the proportions of a national catastrophe to which tens of thousands of Somalis have fallen victim. The Yemeni Government evinced its sympathy with its Somali brothers by taking in the many refugees who fled for their lives from the inferno of the civil war. At the same time, it made strenuous efforts to urge all of the Somali parties to endeavour to devise a formula for national reconciliation that would ensure the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Somalia and contain the devastating civil war. Our country shall spare no effort to pursue these endeavours.

"The crisis then fermented and the tragedy was intensified to the extent that it became a focus of concern to the entire international community, prompting the Security Council to adopt its resolution 794 (1992) of 3 December 1992 authorizing the dispatch of a military force to assist in relief for the people of Somalia and in mitigating its suffering.

"The Yemeni Government welcomes the adoption of the Security Council resolution with a view to halting the tragedy and suffering of the Somali people, and it expresses its readiness to cooperate with the international effort in the framework of the United Nations.

"Within the limits of its capacities, it will contribute to the humanitarian effort in the hope that the international community will be able to stay the tragedy as soon as possible and help the Somali people resume its normal life free from hunger or fear and in peace and stability."